

2010 AVICC/UBCM Resolution from Islands Trust

Southern Strait of Georgia National Marine Conservation Area Reserve

WHEREAS the Southern Strait of Georgia in British Columbia is an ecologically, economically, and culturally rich area that contains the critical habitat of the endangered southern resident orca and is being harmed by a variety of human activities; and

WHEREAS the Government of British Columbia and Parks Canada agreed in 1995 under the Pacific Marine Heritage Legacy to undertake a study to assess the feasibility of protecting and managing this area as a National Marine Conservation Area Reserve (NMCAR) under the *Canada National Marine Conservation Areas Act*, and have been engaged in the feasibility study since 2004;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the UBCM supports the establishment of a large, ecologically zoned NMCAR in the Southern Strait of Georgia from the proposed southern end of Haro Strait, up to and including, Gabriola Passage, and urge immediate action from the provincial and federal governments to proceed on this initiative while respecting First Nations interests in the area.